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# Mideast Jets OK Vital: Prober

By JEFFREY ANTEVIL

Washington (News Bureau)—The Carter administration's Middle East arms sales proposal, under fire from many members of Congress, was endorsed by a congressional investigator yesterday.

Jerome H. Stolarow, an official of the General Accounting Office — the investigatory arm of Congress — told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the proposed sale of U.S. jets to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia "will not have a significant impact... on the balance of power in that area."

He also said that the Saudis, whose share of the sale has come in for the strongest criticism from Israel's supporters in Congress, had a valid need to replace aging aircraft and that the sophisticated F-15 was the only "readily available" American plane that would meet their requirements. He said that a refusal by Congress to sell the planes could have a highly unfavorable impact on the United States.

A State Department spokesman said the administration would consider any "suggestions which reflect legitimate concerns" about the sales.

## Compromise Is "Theoretical"

But a high-level official told The News that the discussion of a compromise was still "very theoretical" and had not gotten down to details.

Another possible area of compromise would be language designed to bar use of the Saudi planes against Israel in any Arab-Israeli war.

Before receiving Stolarow's report, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee heard testimony behind closed doors from CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner.



UPI photo  
CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner (r.) with Sen. Charles Percy before hearing yesterday.

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